

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Mike Jopek, on February 12, 2009 at 3:18 P.M., in Room 137 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Mike Jopek, Chairman (D)  
Rep. Edward B. Butcher, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Julie French, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Russell Bean (R)  
Rep. Tony Belcourt (D)  
Rep. Mary Caferro (D)  
Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)  
Rep. John Fleming (D)  
Rep. Timothy Furey (D)  
Rep. Brian Hoven (R)  
Rep. David Howard (R)  
Rep. Krayton Kerns (R)  
Rep. Margaret MacDonald (D)  
Rep. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)  
Rep. Lee Randall (R)  
Rep. Keith Regier (R)  
Rep. J. David Roundstone (D)  
Rep. Janna Taylor (R)  
Rep. Bob Wagner (R)  
Rep. Wendy Warburton (R)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Todd Everts, Legislative Branch  
Marshall McEwen, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 418, HB 445, 2/6/2009

Executive Action: None

**HEARING ON HB 445**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:26 Rep. Betsy Hands (D), HD 99, opened the hearing on  
HB 445, Farmer protection bill--patented plants.

[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a01)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:06:28 Dave Christensen, Self  
00:19:35 Ole Norgaard, Montana Organic Association  
00:22:55 Nathan Merrill, Self  
00:25:18 Chris Stephens, Self  
00:25:43 Jim Barngrover, Alternative Energy Resources  
Organization

[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a02)

00:30:38 Katie Knight, Alternative Energy Resources  
Organization; Timeless Seeds Incorporated

[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a03)

00:33:24 Richard Thieltges, Montana Flower and Grain

[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a04)

00:36:57 Maxine Kormen, Self  
00:38:24 Chris Christiaens, Montana Farmers Union

[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a05)

00:40:23 Julia Page, Northern Plains Research Council

[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a06)

00:41:39 Cedron Jones, Self

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:42:59 Ron Ueland, President, Westbred

[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a07)

00:51:32 Mike DeVries, Self  
00:53:55 Arleen Rice, Hi-line Chemical; Montana Agriculture  
Business Association

[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a08)

00:58:16 Bruce Wright, Self  
00:59:04 Will Roehm, Montana Grain Growers Association  
01:00:24 J.D. Lynch, Biotechnology Industry Organization

[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a09)

01:02:47 Nancy Schlepp, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

**Informational Testimony:**

01:03:28 Cort Jensen, Chief Attorney, Department of Agriculture

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:05:38 Rep. Wagner  
01:06:11 Mr. Ueland  
01:06:14 Rep. Wagner  
01:06:41 Mr. Ueland  
01:06:51 Rep. Wagner  
01:07:13 Mr. Ueland  
01:07:53 Rep. Wagner  
01:08:02 Rep. Dickenson  
01:08:57 Mr. Barngrover  
01:09:50 Rep. Dickenson  
01:10:02 Mr. Barngrover  
01:10:17 Rep. Dickenson  
01:10:33 Dr. Dale Clark, Westbred  
01:11:37 Rep. Hoven  
01:11:59 Mr. Ueland  
01:13:08 Rep. French  
01:13:25 Mr. Christiaens  
01:13:50 Rep. Hands  
01:13:54 Rep. French  
01:13:57 Rep. Hands

**EXHIBIT (agh33a10)**

01:20:02 Rep. French  
01:20:13 Rep. Hands  
01:22:14 Rep. Bean  
01:22:48 Mr. Ueland  
01:23:22 Rep. Bean  
01:23:34 Mr. Ueland  
01:24:12 Chairman Jopek  
01:24:22 Rep. Furey  
01:24:51 Rep. Hands  
01:25:46 Rep. Belcourt  
01:26:09 Mr. Jensen  
01:26:33 Rep. Belcourt  
01:26:43 Chairman Jopek  
01:27:04 Rep. Caferro  
01:27:34 Mr. Christensen  
01:27:46 Rep. Caferro  
01:28:49 Mr. Christensen  
01:28:51 Rep. Caferro  
01:28:55 Mr. Christensen  
01:30:40 Rep. Wagner  
01:31:15 Mr. Jensen  
01:31:23 Rep. Wagner  
01:31:32 Mr. Jensen

01:32:00 Rep. Wagner  
01:32:08 Chairman Jopek

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:32:18 Rep. Hands  
[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a11)  
01:39:17 Chairman Jopek  
01:40:02 Committee takes a break.  
01:50:47 Committee reconvenes.

**HEARING ON HB 418**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:51:41 Rep. Edward Butcher (R), HD 29, opened the hearing on  
HB 418, Authorize investor owned livestock slaughter  
and processing plants.  
[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a12)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

02:12:50 Sen. Ryan Zinke, SD 2  
02:15:00 Rep. Dickenson  
02:15:11 Sen. Zinke  
02:16:15 Chairman Jopek  
02:16:39 Ron Burns, Self  
02:20:01 Bob Hanson, State President, Montana Farm Bureau  
Federation  
02:21:46 Julie Wagner, Self  
[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a13)  
02:24:58 Gary MacDonald, County Commissioner, Roosevelt County  
02:27:18 Carl Seilstad, County Commissioner, Fergus County  
02:28:30 Allan Underdal, Chairman, Toole County Commissioners  
02:29:16 Wayne Pacheco, Self  
02:31:24 Mack Cole, Self  
[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a14)  
02:35:27 Gladus Walling, Self  
02:37:21 Harley Rounds, Self  
02:37:54 Linda Newman, Women Involved in Farm Economics  
[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a15)  
02:43:24 Bill Parker, Billings Livestock Horse Sales  
02:49:05 Rob Melcher, Self  
02:50:35 Dick Lyman, Self  
02:52:30 Donna Johnson, Self  
  
02:53:54 Jan Parker, Self  
[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a16)  
02:55:53 Jill Lane, Self

02:58:00 Dan Mortensen, Self  
02:58:56 T.J. Butcher, Self  
02:59:36 Mckensie Butcher, Self  
03:00:29 Josh Butcher, Self  
03:01:40 Travis Butcher, Self

**EXHIBIT (agh33a17)**

03:03:52 John Jensen, County Commissioner, Fergus County  
03:05:09 Maxine Kormen, Self  
03:08:25 Chairman Jopek  
03:08:42 J.D. Svedberg, Self  
03:09:55 Doretta Pecheco, Self  
03:10:55 Dan Teigen, Self  
03:16:24 Jan Finn, J Bar F Performance Horses, Townsend,  
Montana  
03:19:21 Garth Bascom, Self  
03:20:18 Karli Phillips, Self  
03:21:19 Ariel Overstreet, Montana Cattle Women  
03:22:26 Eric Reilly, Montana Wool Growers

**EXHIBIT (agh33a18)**

03:23:44 Shane Varia, Self  
03:24:05 Doc Rea, Self  
03:25:02 Gail Vennes, Chairman, Broadwater County Commission  
03:25:27 Scott Olsen, Self  
03:26:20 Errol Rice, Executive Vice President, Stock Growers  
Association and Montana Farmers Union

**Opponents' Testimony:**

03:33:06 Dr. Lisa Jacobson, President, Montana Horse Sanctuary

**EXHIBIT (agh33a19)**

03:48:41 Joan Specking, Self  
03:53:05 Vic Andersen, Self  
03:56:17 Jane Heath, Executive Director, Montana Horse Sanctuary

**Informational Testimony:**

03:58:06 Christian MacKay, Executive Officer, Montana Board of  
Livestock  
03:58:58 Jim Brown, Lobbyist, Stock Growers Association  
04:02:06 Chairman Jopek  
04:02:21 Mr. Brown

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

04:03:21 Rep. Wagner  
04:04:05 Ms. Jacobson  
04:04:09 Rep. Wagner  
04:04:14 Ms. Jacobson  
04:04:30 Rep. Wagner

04:04:34 Ms. Jacobson  
04:05:04 Rep. Wagner  
04:05:14 Ms. Jacobson  
04:05:26 Ms. Heath  
04:05:36 Rep. Wagner  
04:05:50 Ms. Heath  
04:06:34 Rep. Dickenson  
04:07:28 Rep. Butcher  
04:08:27 Rep. Dickenson  
04:08:31 Chairman Jopek  
04:08:36 Rep. Dickenson  
04:08:44 Rep. Fleming  
04:09:38 Mr. MacKay  
04:09:48 Rep. Fleming  
04:10:32 Mr. MacKay  
04:11:07 Rep. Fleming  
04:11:25 Mr. MacKay  
04:11:58 Rep. Belcourt  
04:12:17 Mr. Parker  
04:12:18 Rep. Belcourt  
04:12:34 Mr. Parker  
04:12:50 Rep. Belcourt  
04:13:06 Mr. Parker  
04:13:08 Rep. Belcourt  
04:13:24 Mr. Parker  
04:14:18 Rep. Belcourt  
04:14:26 Mr. Parker  
04:14:51 Rep. French  
04:15:26 Chairman Jopek  
04:15:34 Rep. Warburton  
04:16:35 Ms. Jacobson  
04:17:41 Rep. Warburton  
04:17:53 Ms. Jacobson  
04:18:52 Rep. Furey  
04:20:12 Mr. Rice  
04:22:05 Rep. Furey  
04:22:18 Mr. Rice  
04:22:26 Rep. Furey  
04:22:49 Chairman Jopek  
04:22:57 Rep. Furey  
04:23:06 Mr. Rice  
04:23:38 Rep. Caferro  
04:23:57 Mr. Anderson  
04:25:18 Chairman Jopek

**Closing by Sponsor:**

04:25:52 Rep. Butcher  
04:32:33 Chairman Jopek

**ADJOURNMENT**

04:33:57 Adjournment: 7:51 P.M.

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Marshall McEwen, Secretary

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**Additional Exhibits**

Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT ([agh33aad.pdf](#))**